

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A hardcopy device comprising:

a processor;

an image printing unit which is controlled by said processor and fed by a print media supply and handling unit; and

a memory unit containing an electronic document file which is retrieved, on command, from said memory by said processor and printed in hardcopy form by said image printing unit;

wherein said electronic document file is a document describing features of said hardcopy device.

2. The device of claim 1, wherein said memory unit is a read-only memory unit and contains said electronic document file.

3. The device of claim 1, further comprising a user interface unit with which a user can issue a command for said device to print said electronic document file in hardcopy form.

4. The device of claim 3, wherein said user interface unit displays a menu from which said command is issued in response to selection of a corresponding menu item.

5. The device of claim 3, further comprising a display associated with said device which advertises a specific manipulation of said user interface device that will issue said command.

6. The device of claim 1, further comprising a connection to a host device, wherein said host device issues said command to print said electronic document file.

7. The device of claim 1, further comprising a connection to a host device, wherein an updated electronic document file is downloaded from said host device to said hardcopy device.

8. The device of claim 1, further comprising a static memory unit in which said updated electronic document file is stored.

9. The device of claim 1, further comprising an embedded Web browser and a connection to the Internet or Web, wherein said Web browser downloads an updated electronic document file from the Internet or Web.

10. The device of claim 1, further comprising a static memory unit in which said updated electronic document file is stored.

11. The device of claim 1, wherein said hardcopy device is a facsimile machine further comprising a modem and connection to a phone line.

12. The device of claim 11, wherein said facsimile machine further comprises an update subroutine which causes said facsimile machine to connect via said phone line to a host system from which an updated electronic document file is downloaded.

13. A method of advertising the features of a hardcopy device, which hardcopy device includes a processor; an image printing unit which is controlled by said processor and fed by a print media supply and handling unit; and a memory unit containing an electronic document file, wherein said electronic document file is an electronic document describing features of said hardcopy device, said method comprising retrieving said electronic document file, on command, from said memory and printing said electronic document file in hardcopy form with said image printing unit.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising issuing said command for said device to print said electronic document file in hardcopy form with a user interface unit of said hardcopy device.

15. The method of claim 14, further comprising associating a display with said device which advertises a specific manipulation of said user interface device that will issue said command.

16. The method of claim 13, further comprising displaying a menu from which said command is issued in response to selection of a corresponding menu item.

17. The method of claim 13, further downloading an updated electronic document file from a host device connected to said hardcopy device.

18. The method of claim 13, further comprising downloading an updated electronic document file from the Internet or Web using an embedded Web browser in said hardcopy device and a connection from said hardcopy device to the Internet or Web.

19. The method of claim 13, wherein said hardcopy device is a facsimile machine further comprising a modem and connection to a phone line, said method further comprising connecting said facsimile machine via said phone line to a host system; and downloading an updated electronic document file from said host system.

20. Computer-readable instructions stored on a medium for storing computer-readable instructions, wherein said instructions cause a hardcopy device to implement a method of advertising the features of said hardcopy device, which hardcopy device includes a processor; an image printing unit which is controlled by said processor and fed by a print media supply and handling unit; and a

memory unit containing an electronic document file, wherein said electronic document file is an electronic document describing features of said hardcopy device, wherein said instructions cause said hardcopy device to retrieve said electronic document file, on command, from said memory and print said electronic document file in hardcopy form with said image printing unit.

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